From: elizabeth m stern
To: Devereux, Jan
Cc: Zondervan, Quinton
Subject: Re: "Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions resolution
Date: Saturday, April 21, 2018 7:35:40 AM

Jan—thank you very much for that clarification. I did notice, after first hearing back from you, that the mailing I received was from L.A. , and seems to be a piece of mis-information. As Quinton said, 'the propaganda machine is out of control'—I might add, on all 'sides'.

I am sure there are "highly respected and longtime residents" thinking about all aspects of this issue. (I understand now, it was initiated by citizens, not Council members, and that you listen to all viewpoints.)

I seriously wonder, however, whether the issue is productively brought up in a city government setting. There are more than enough local problems which are the real purview of City Council.

I can well understand it might have been a very difficult week, and it makes one long for a place where people can have a non-emotional discussion and actually listen to each other.

As the wife of a 'child of holocaust survivors' I know I possess my own emotional baggage-- easily triggered. The issue has in fact become a divisive trigger point for most people, much as is the issue of abortion.

Clarification is essential.

Thank you for yours.

Elizabeth Stern

On Apr 21, 2018, at 6:46 AM, Devereux, Jan <jdevereux@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Elizabeth,

The suggestion for a boycott was brought to councillors individually by Cambridge residents interested in protecting human rights and promoting peace. Some of them are highly respected and longtime residents who have worked for years for civil rights, peace and disarmament movements. Some of them are Jews, some are immigrants who have lived in non-democratic nations.

Contrary to what is being said, there has been no discussion of the BDS issue by the Council as a body. In fact due to the state's Open Meeting Law a majority of councillors (that is, more than 4 of us) may not deliberate with each other outside of a public meeting including by email or in sequence.

Every councillor meets with residents and community members all the time to listen to their ideas and concerns and to discuss possible actions to address them. This is a big part of our job. Never in my time on the Council, albeit brief as it is, has the mere act of listening and discussing a policy idea with residents provoked such an intense misinformation and lobbying campaign by those opposed from all corners of the world. The flyer mailed citywide informing residents to "reject hate" was sent and paid for by a group from Los Angeles. At the same time we have also heard from Cambridge residents, many of them Jews, who have encouraged us to boycott HP products (not Israel itself) because they are used by ICE agents and in US prisons as well by Israeli security forces.

My colleagues and I have been unfairly accused of being simultaneously anti-Semtic and political cowards for being willing to consider suggestions from other residents about what actions could be taken to restore peace and protect human rights in a region that has been in violent conflict longer than I've been alive.

It has been a discouraging and difficult week both professionally and personally.

Jan

Jan Devereux
Vice Mayor
Cambridge, MA

jdevereux@cambridgema.gov

For updates on City Council issues and events visit http://jandevereux.com/

All emails to and from this City address should be considered subject to Massachusetts Public Records Laws.

From: elizabeth m stern <estern1@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 10:16:36 PM
To: Zondervan, Quinton
Cc: Devereux, Jan
Subject: Re: "Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions resolution

Thank you for replying. Jan says the same thing. I am going to look into where the info was initiated.

Was there ANY discussion of the possibility of B, D, and S in City Council?

Thank you,

Elizabeth Stern
> On Apr 20, 2018, at 5:04 PM, Zondervan, Quinton <qzondervan@cambridgema.gov> wrote:
>
> Thanks Elizabeth for writing us. To be clear, there is no BDS resolution on Monday night's agenda. The propaganda machine on this issue is out of control :-/
>
> Best,
>
> Q
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Apr 20, 2018, at 3:28 PM, elizabeth m stern <estern1@comcast.net> wrote:
>>
>> To: Members of City Council;
>>
>> I would like it known that I and my husband, both of whom vote for City Councilors, STRONGLY oppose the BDS Resolution.
>>
>> BDS promotes a one-sided view of the conflict and brings ever more hateful rhetoric into this country, It supports Palestinian rights at the cost of Israeli rights.
>>
>> This is a complex geopolitical issue which City Councilors will not resolve—despite their hubris—least of all with censure. It requires open discussion.
>>
>> I will think twice before casting another vote for any City Councilor who votes for this resolution.
>>
>>
>> Elizabeth Stern
>> Menachem Stern
>> 20 Cambridge Terrace
>> Cambridge, 02140
>>
>>